

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 8-12, 14-15 and 20-24 have been withdrawn from non-elected species and now are being rejoined and allowed.

Claims 2-12 and 14-36 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art (US Pat. No. 4,382,353 or US Pat. No. 4,787,188) does not disclose a combination structure that including a plurality of seam plates being fixed to a substrate independently of fasteners as set forth in the claims.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be directed to Chi Q. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-6847. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 7:30 am-4:00 pm.

If attempt to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Chilcot can be reached at (571) 272-6777.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pairedirect.uspto.gov>. Should you

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have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at (866) 217-9197.

/C. Q. N./  
Examiner, Art Unit 3635  
/Richard E. Chilcot, Jr./  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3635